United Nations A/CONF.192/BMS/2014/2

General Assembly

Distr.: General
26 June 2014

Original: English

Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
New York, 16-20 June 2014

Report of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 56/24 V, the General Assembly welcomed the adoption by consensus of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and decided to convene a conference, no later than 2006, to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action, the date and venue of which was to be decided by the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session. The Assembly also decided to convene a meeting of States on a biennial basis, commencing in 2003, to consider the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action.

2. Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 57/72 and 59/86, the first two biennial meetings were held in New York, from 7 to 11 July 2003 and from 11 to 15 July 2005. In accordance with Assembly resolutions 58/241 and 59/86, the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects was held in New York from 26 June to 7 July 2006. Pursuant to resolutions 61/66 and 62/47, the third biennial meeting was held from 14 to 18 July 2008 and, pursuant to resolutions 63/72 and 64/50, the fourth was held from 14 to 18 June 2010. Pursuant to resolutions 65/64 and 66/47, the Second Review Conference was held in New York from 27 August to 7 September 2012.

3. In its resolution 67/58, the General Assembly decided, pursuant to the schedule of meetings for the period from 2012 to 2018 agreed at the Second Review Conference, to convene, in accordance with the relevant provision of the Programme of Action, a one-week biennial meeting of States, in New York in 2014

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and 2016, and a one-week open-ended meeting of governmental experts in 2015, to consider the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action.

4. In its resolution 68/48, the General Assembly decided that the next biennial meeting of States would be held in New York from 16 to 20 June 2014.

II. Organizational matters

A. Opening and duration

5. The Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects was held at United Nations Headquarters from 16 to 20 June 2014, during the course of which eight plenary meetings were held to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action.

6. The Secretary of the Fifth Biennial Meeting was Kenji Nakano of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. The Office for Disarmament Affairs provided support on substantive issues.

7. The Fifth Biennial Meeting was opened by the Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Virginia Gamba, who made a statement. Ms. Gamba also conducted the election of the Chair of the meeting.

B. Officers

8. At the 1st meeting, on 16 June 2014, the following officers were elected by acclamation:

Chair:

Zahir Tanin (Afghanistan)

Vice-Chairs:

Algeria, Argentina, Colombia, Czech Republic, Germany, Guatemala, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Liberia, Morocco, New Zealand, Pakistan, Portugal, Republic of Moldova and Romania.

C. Adoption of the agenda

9. Also at the 1st meeting, the following agenda (A/CONF.192/BMS/2014/L.1) was adopted:

1. Opening of the meeting by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.
2. Election of the Chair.
3. Statement of the Chair.
4. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
5. Election of other officers of the meeting.

6. Consideration of the implementation of the Programme of Action in all its aspects at the national, regional and global levels, including stockpile management, including physical security measures of small arms and light weapons.

7. Consideration of the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons.

8. International cooperation and assistance for full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including:

   (a) Capacity-building, including training;

   (b) Transfer of technology and equipment.

9. Other issues and topics of relevance to the implementation of the Programme of Action.

10. Consideration of the draft final document.

11. Consideration and adoption of the report of the meeting.

10. At the same meeting, the programme of work (A/CONF.192/BMS/2014/L.2) was adopted.

D. Rules of procedure

11. Also at the 1st meeting, it was decided that the rules of procedure of the 2001 United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (A/CONF.192/L.1) would be applied mutatis mutandis.

12. At the same meeting, in accordance with paragraphs (a) and (b) of rule 63 of the rules of procedure, a decision was taken on the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Fifth Biennial Meeting.

E. Documentation

13. The documentation of the Fifth Biennial Meeting is listed in document A/CONF.192/BMS/2014/INF/2.

14. National reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action were submitted at the Fifth Biennial Meeting on a voluntary basis by the following 68 States: Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Estonia, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,

Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania and United States of America.

III. Proceedings

A. Consideration of the implementation of the Programme of Action in all its aspects at the national, regional and global levels, including stockpile management, including physical security measures of small arms and light weapons

15. Agenda item 6 was considered at the 1st and 2nd meetings, on 16 June 2014. At the 1st meeting, the representative of the Office for Disarmament Affairs presented a factual summary of national reports received on the Programme of Action and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons. Statements were also made by the representatives of the European Union, Jamaica (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Qatar (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Japan, Pakistan, China, South Africa, Iraq, Argentina, Saudi Arabia, Cuba, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Cabo Verde, Colombia, Guatemala, the Republic of Korea, Trinidad and Tobago, Spain, India, Costa Rica, Kazakhstan, Thailand, Brazil, France, Egypt, the Russian Federation, the Dominican Republic and Nigeria. At the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Republic of Moldova (on behalf of the chairmanship of the Forum for Security Cooperation of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe), Mexico, Australia, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Israel, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Belarus, Canada, the United States, Mali, Benin, Nicaragua and Austria, and by the observer for the State of Palestine.

B. Consideration of the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons

16. Agenda item 7 was considered at the 3rd and 4th meetings, on 17 June 2014. At the 3rd meeting, the Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs introduced the report of the Secretary-General (A/CONF.192/BMS/2014/1). The Coordinator of the Firearms Programme of the International Criminal Police Organization made a presentation. Statements were made by the representatives of the European Union, Jamaica (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Qatar (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Egypt, Japan, Algeria, Australia, South Africa, Argentina, Costa Rica, China, France, Peru, Liberia, Belgium, Armenia, Brazil, the United States, the Czech Republic, India, Guatemala, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Colombia, Zambia, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Benin and Spain. At the 4th meeting, the representative of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs responded to questions posed by the representatives of South Africa and Egypt on issues discussed at the 1st and 3rd meetings. Statements were also made by the representatives of Botswana and Nigeria.

C. International cooperation and assistance for full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument

1. Capacity-building, including training

2. Transfer of technology and equipment

17. Agenda item 8 was considered at the 5th and the 6th meetings, on 18 June 2014. At the 5th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Indonesia (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries), the European Union, Argentina, South Africa, Japan, China, Iraq, Belarus, Colombia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Cuba, Turkey and India. At the 6th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Ghana (on behalf of the Economic Community of West African States), Nigeria (also on behalf of the Group of African States), Guyana (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Qatar (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Thailand, Costa Rica, the United States, Switzerland, Guatemala, Egypt, Mexico, France, the United Kingdom, Nigeria, Australia, Mali, Algeria, the Sudan, Peru, Morocco, Austria, the Netherlands, South Sudan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Norway and Trinidad and Tobago, and by the observer for the State of Palestine.

D. Other issues and topics of relevance to the implementation of the Programme of Action

18. Agenda item 9 was considered at the 7th meeting, on 19 June 2014. Statements were made by the representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (on behalf of the United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms) and by the observers for the Economic Community of West African States, the East African Community, the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Statements were also made by the representatives of the International Action Network on Small Arms and the Peace Research Institute Oslo. After a brief suspension of the meeting, further statements were made by the World Forum on the Future of Sport Shooting Activities, the Defense Small Arms Advisory Council, the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute, the Heritage Foundation, Canada's National Firearms Association and the American Conservative Union. Finally, statements were made by the representatives of Trinidad and Tobago (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Kenya, the Czech Republic, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Guatemala, Argentina, Cameroon and Austria.

IV. Adoption of the draft final document

19. At the 8th meeting, on 20 June 2014, it was decided during discussions on agenda item 10 to include in the present report the outcome of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States on agenda items 6 to 9 (see annex). At the same meeting, the delegation of Egypt expressed its concern that the discussions held at the present meeting revealed a continuing lack of consensus on ammunition for small and light weapons and explosives, integrated border control management and other issues beyond the scope of the Programme of Action or the mandate of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States.

V. Adoption of the report

20. At its 8th meeting, on 20 June 2014, the participants considered and adopted the draft report of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States (A/CONF.192/BMS/2014/L.3) and authorized the Chair to finalize the report.

Annex

Outcome of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

1. In the context of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, States considered the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons.

2. States also reiterated their grave concern about the illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons and their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread in many regions of the world, which have a wide range of humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences, such as impeding the provision of humanitarian assistance to victims of armed conflict, and pose a serious threat to peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable development at the individual, local, national, regional and international levels.

3. States reaffirmed their respect for and commitment to their obligations under international law and the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as those set out in the Programme of Action, including its eighth to eleventh preambular paragraphs.

4. States welcomed the progress made in implementing the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument since their adoption, including on the establishment, strengthening and enforcement of national laws, regulations and administrative procedures to prevent the illicit trade and illegal manufacture of small arms and light weapons, the development of national action plans, the establishment of national points of contact, the submission of voluntary national reports and the strengthening of regional cooperation. They also welcomed progress made in implementing stockpile security, the collection and destruction of illicit small arms and light weapons, the marking of small arms and light weapons, technical training and information sharing.

5. Bearing in mind the different situations, capacities and priorities of States and regions, States noted the continuing challenges to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including the need for enhanced international cooperation and assistance. They reaffirmed their commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument over the period 2012-2018, in accordance with the implementation measures adopted at the 2012 United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4, annexes I and II) and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/58.

I. Consideration of the implementation of the Programme of Action in all its aspects at the national, regional and global levels, including stockpile management, including physical security measures of small arms and light weapons

6. States reiterated that proper management of stockpiles of small arms and light weapons, in particular in settings of armed violence, transnational organized crime and conflict and post-conflict situations, was essential to preventing accidents and reducing the risk of diversion to the illicit trade, illegal armed groups, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients. States noted recent developments in the area of stockpile management and physical security measures, including in relevant United Nations resolutions.

7. States considered the specific requirements for adequate stockpile management, including physical security measures, particularly in conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as the need for international assistance and cooperation in this regard. They noted the efforts of the Security Council to address the issue of illicit small arms and light weapons through the incorporation of stockpile management and other physical security measures in the mandates of United Nations peacekeeping missions.

8. States further noted the importance, where appropriate and in full consultation with relevant stakeholders, of integrating stockpile management measures into wider disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and other relevant national programmes, particularly in conflict and post-conflict situations. States also highlighted that adequate stockpile management, including physical security measures, can assist States in fulfilling their international obligations under the Charter of the United Nations.

9. States emphasized that stockpile management, including physical security measures, can benefit from technological advances.

10. States highlighted the need to facilitate participation and representation of women in policymaking, planning and implementation processes related to small arms and light weapons, including in processes related to stockpile management and physical security measures, taking into account General Assembly resolution 65/69 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions of these two bodies on that question.

11. States noted that putting in place adequate and proper life-cycle management procedures could reduce stockpile security risks, such as accidental explosions at depots and diversion to the illicit trade, illegal armed groups, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients.

12. States also noted that stockpile management, including physical security measures, could benefit from the voluntary application, in accordance with their national legislation, of standards and guidelines that they considered relevant, as well as from the sharing of lessons learned and good practices relating to the stockpile management and physical security of small arms and light weapons.

13. States also invited Member States and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations with relevant expertise to share experience and research

in the area of diversion to the illicit trade, illegal armed groups, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients.

14. States acknowledged the importance of cooperation and assistance, including through regional and subregional organizations and United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament, on issues such as stockpile management and physical security measures and the destruction or other responsible disposal of surplus stocks or unmarked or inadequately marked small arms and light weapons.

15. States also highlighted the need for cost-effective, environmentally friendly methods of disposing of small arms and light weapons. In this regard, they noted the importance of the transfer of related technology, upon request and where appropriate.

16. States further recalled that the Programme of Action stipulated that subregional, regional and international programmes for specialist training and expertise on small arm and light weapon stockpile management, including physical security measures, should be developed. In this regard, States were encouraged to share information and build further capacity, including relevant training in this area, and facilitate the provision of such expertise and training, where requested.

Way forward

17. Bearing in mind the different situations, capacities and priorities of States and regions, and in order to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, States undertake:

(a) To continue to strengthen the implementation of the Programme of Action and, in this context, to strengthen stockpile management, including physical security measures of small arms and light weapons, in order to prevent the diversion to the illicit trade, illegal armed groups, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients;

(b) To encourage, where possible and in full consultation with relevant stakeholders, the integration of stockpile management measures with wider disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and other relevant national programmes, particularly in conflict and post-conflict situations;

(c) To take advantage, where feasible, of technological advances to strengthen stockpile management, including physical security measures, noting in this regard the importance of the transfer of related technology, upon request and where appropriate;

(d) To promote the role of women in preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including through access to training, as well as through their meaningful participation and representation in policymaking, planning and implementation processes related to the implementation of the Programme of Action, including stockpile management and physical security measures, and awareness-raising and education;

(e) To take steps towards the safe and effective management and physical security of stockpiles of small arms and light weapons, in accordance with appropriate national standards and procedures, and to take, as appropriate, adequate measures to strengthen life-cycle management procedures;

(f) To share at future meetings on the implementation of the Programme of Action, as relevant, good practices as well as lessons learned on standards and guidelines related to stockpile management, including physical security measures, that they apply in accordance with their national legislation;

(g) To strengthen international and regional cooperation and assistance on the implementation of the Programme of Action, including stockpile management and physical security measures, on issues such as the destruction or other responsible disposal of surplus stocks or unmarked or inadequately marked small arms and light weapons, by the fostering of enhanced regional expertise through regional and subregional organizations and training centres;

(h) To encourage the use of cost-effective, environmentally friendly methods of disposing of small arms and light weapons, and to facilitate the transfer of related technology, upon request and where appropriate;

(i) To encourage subregional and regional organizations, as well as United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament, in accordance with their respective mandates, to assist States, upon request, in building relevant national capacities for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action, including stockpile management and physical security measures;

(j) To build, where necessary, further capacity on practices relating to stockpile management, including physical security measures, at the national and regional levels, including through the development of training on the management of stockpiles of small arms and light weapons and physical security measures, and to provide such training, upon request and where appropriate.

II. International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons

18. States noted the importance of information exchange at the national, subregional, regional and international levels, on a voluntary basis and in accordance with national legislation and administrative procedures, for preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and preventing diversion to the illicit trade, illegal armed groups, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients, in particular the timely exchange of tracing results as well as other relevant information between competent national authorities.

19. States noted with concern that developments in small arm and light weapon manufacturing, technology and design, including those presented in the report of the Secretary-General submitted at the present meeting (A/CONF.192/BMS/2014/1), posed new challenges for effective marking, record-keeping and tracing.

20. States also acknowledged the potential opportunities for enhanced marking, record-keeping and tracing that could result from developments in small arm and light weapon manufacturing, technology and design, and noted the importance of the transfer of related technology, upon request and where appropriate.

21. States highlighted the contribution that the exchange of tracing information, in accordance with the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, could make towards preventing the flow of illicit small arms and light weapons in

the context of all forms of crime, and in conflict and post-conflict situations, including in the planning and implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and other relevant national programmes, and noted the important role played in this regard by relevant bodies, organs and missions of the United Nations, as well as relevant regional and subregional organizations.

22. States acknowledged the importance of keeping confidential tracing information related to criminal investigations with competent national authorities in order to protect sensitive information, in accordance with national laws and regulations and relevant international obligations.

23. States reaffirmed the need to strengthen national measures on the marking of small arms and light weapons, including, to the extent possible, marking upon import, in accordance with paragraph 8 (b) of the International Tracing Instrument.

24. States reiterated their commitment to designate, where they have not done so, one or more national points of contact on the International Tracing Instrument, inter alia to facilitate cooperation in tracing, in accordance with the provisions of the Instrument, and to update this information in their national reports regularly.

25. States highlighted the availability of tools to support the effectiveness, efficiency and speed of information-sharing related to the tracing of illicit small arms and light weapons, including relevant online platforms, such as tools for information exchange provided by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

26. States also highlighted the complementary role that the exchange of ballistics information could play in relation to the tracing of illicit small arms and light weapons in the context of criminal investigations.

Way forward

27. Bearing in mind the different situations, capacities and priorities of States and regions, and in order to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, States undertake:

(a) To enhance information exchange at the national, regional and international levels, on a voluntary basis and in accordance with national legislation and administrative procedures, particularly the timely exchange of tracing results between competent national authorities, as well as other information relevant to preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and to preventing their diversion to the illicit trade, illegal armed groups, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients;

(b) To encourage the United Nations Secretariat to make more readily available public information related to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and their diversion to the illicit trade, illegal armed groups, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients;

(c) To consider utilizing, as appropriate and on a voluntary basis, available tools to support the effectiveness, efficiency and speed of information-sharing related to the tracing of illicit small arms and light weapons and their diversion to the illicit trade, illegal armed groups, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients, including relevant online and other technologies;

(d) To consider also developments in small arms and light weapon manufacturing, technology and design and their implications for the full and effective implementation of the International Tracing Instrument, such as practical steps to ensure the continued and enhanced effectiveness of national marking, record-keeping and tracing systems; implications for international assistance and capacity-building, including the transfer, uptake and effective utilization of relevant tools and technology; and possible additional measures to ensure that the Instrument remains up to date;

(e) In this regard, to recommend that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide through his annual consolidated report on small arms and light weapons, as required, further information relevant to these developments, building upon his initial report (A/CONF.192/BMS/2014/1) and discussions that will occur at the 2015 open-ended meeting of governmental experts, for consideration by Member States at relevant future meetings on the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument;

(f) To encourage, in full consultation with relevant stakeholders, including host Governments and troop- and police-contributing countries, through the implementation by United Nations missions, when duly mandated, the provision of support to host Governments, upon request, for tracing illicit small arms and light weapons in conflict and post-conflict situations, consistent with the International Tracing Instrument;

(g) To encourage, where appropriate and consistent with the International Tracing Instrument, the enhanced exchange of information related to the tracing of illicit small arms and light weapons between relevant United Nations entities, consistent with relevant mandates and competencies, including where relevant to support the planning and implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and other relevant national programmes;

(h) To designate, where they have not done so, one or more national points of contact on the International Tracing Instrument, including to facilitate cooperation in tracing, in accordance with the provisions of the Instrument, and to update this information in their national reports regularly;

(i) To consider options for developing a comprehensive international assistance framework to provide resources, training, capacity-building and technical assistance to developing countries, upon request, to support the effective implementation of the International Tracing Instrument;

(j) In this regard, to encourage States and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations in a position to do so to provide, upon request, adequate technical and financial assistance, including relevant equipment, such as marking machines and training, in order to improve national marking, record-keeping, and the tracing capacity necessary for the effective implementation of the International Tracing Instrument;

(k) To encourage States and international, regional and subregional organizations in a position to do so to provide, upon request, adequate technical and financial assistance to strengthen national capacities for ballistics information collection and exchange;

(l) To encourage enhanced linkages, when appropriate, for those States that are party to them, with the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and other relevant legally binding instruments with regard to efforts to implement the International Tracing Instrument at the national, regional and global levels.

III. International cooperation and assistance for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including: capacity-building, including training; and transfer of technology and equipment

28. States reaffirmed that international cooperation and assistance were an essential aspect in the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument. They highlighted the continued necessity of offering technical, financial and other concrete assistance and the transfer of technology and equipment upon request from developing countries. They also noted the value of further drawing on the expertise available in developing countries in that regard.

29. States also reaffirmed that international cooperation and assistance should be offered upon request, as appropriate, in line with the needs and priorities of recipient States, and that its adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability should be ensured.

30. States highlighted their grave concern about the devastating consequences of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on civilians, particularly women and children.

31. States highlighted the need to facilitate the participation and representation of women in international cooperation and assistance for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, taking into account General Assembly resolution 65/69 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions of these two bodies on that question.

32. States identified the need for increased exchanges of expertise, techniques and procedures, including best practices and lessons learned, between relevant authorities. States also highlighted the importance of enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, including through the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament.

33. States recognized the value of addressing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons across borders, in accordance with the Programme of Action, and the need to promote cooperation on this matter through the appropriate channels, with full respect for each State's sovereignty over its own borders.

34. States acknowledged the usefulness of the online information platform on the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument made available by the Secretariat.

35. States underlined the need to make maximum use of tools and mechanisms for enhancing international assistance, including technical and financial assistance, required for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, inter alia through the improved matching of needs with available resources, including through forums such as the Group of States Interested in Practical Disarmament Measures.

36. States underlined the importance of reliable and sustained assistance, including through United Nations trust fund arrangements, and encouraged States and relevant regional and subregional organizations in a position to do so to make financial contributions.

37. States encouraged the further development of mechanisms to increase the measurability and effectiveness of international cooperation and assistance.

Way forward

38. Bearing in mind the different situations, capacities and priorities of States and regions, and in order to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, States undertake:

(a) To urge States and international, regional and subregional organizations in a position to do so to offer cooperation and assistance, particularly technical and financial assistance, and the transfer of technology and equipment, ensuring its adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability, upon request from developing countries, in line with the needs and priorities of recipient States in the areas relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument;

(b) To call on all States and international organizations in a position to do so to provide developing countries with the requisite training and capacity-building, upon request, for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument;

(c) To explore options and ways to establish relevant arrangements, where appropriate and mutually agreed, for the provision of training and expertise on small arm and light weapon stockpile management, including physical security measures, cognizant of the different multilateral settings in which such cooperation and assistance are pursued in accordance with the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument;

(d) To urge States in a position to do so to provide developing countries, upon request, with critical equipment essential to the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument;

(e) To take into account, in line with national priorities, the agreed outcomes of conferences and meetings related to the Programme of Action in all activities that support its implementation, including voluntarily funded activities and research and training;

(f) To make further efforts to use national reports as a tool to identify, prioritize and communicate assistance needs; to formulate concrete project proposals with measurable goals as part of relevant national action plans and on the basis of an objective and detailed assessment of needs; and to mobilize necessary resources, with assistance from international, regional and subregional organizations;

(g) To develop assistance proposals in coordination with relevant regional and subregional organizations, as appropriate;

(h) To encourage States and international organizations to avoid duplication in providing or requesting assistance through, inter alia, exploring regional and subregional partnerships and drawing upon regional and subregional expertise and technical capabilities;

(i) To enhance the exchange of knowledge, expertise and lessons learned at the global, regional, subregional and national levels, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, and through international, regional and subregional organizations;

(j) To encourage States to cooperate in preventing and reducing the devastating consequences of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on children;

(k) To establish or strengthen, where appropriate, subregional or regional cooperation, coordination and information-sharing mechanisms, in particular trans-border Customs cooperation and networks for information-sharing among, as relevant, law enforcement and national border and Customs control agencies, with a view to preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons across borders;

(l) To take full advantage of the benefits of cooperation with the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament, the World Customs Organization, INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in accordance with their mandates and consistent with national priorities, for ensuring the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument;

(m) To request the Secretariat to present, for consideration at the 2015 open-ended meeting of governmental experts, options for the enhanced funding of activities relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including trust fund arrangements; and for the establishment of programmes for the training of relevant officials, nominated by their respective Governments, in areas related to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument;

(n) To request also the Secretariat:

(i) To carry out a comprehensive study on the adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability of financial and technical assistance, including the transfer of technology and equipment, particularly to developing countries since 2001, for the full implementation of the Programme of Action, and to submit this study for discussion at the open-ended meeting of governmental experts in 2015 and consideration at the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States (2016);

(ii) To continue to collaborate with relevant research and training institutions, particularly with those from developing countries, on activities addressing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including the sharing of rosters of experts including experts from developing countries, where relevant;

(iii) To include among the globally available web-based resources it provides, relevant information, such as studies, publications and other resources, related to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

IV. Follow-up to the Second Review Conference

Schedule of meetings from 2014 to 2018

39. States referred to the General Assembly's decision, pursuant to the schedule of meetings for the period from 2012 to 2018 agreed at the Second Review Conference, to convene, in accordance with the relevant provision of the Programme of Action, a one-week biennial meeting of States, in New York in 2014 and 2016, a one-week open-ended meeting of governmental experts in 2015, to consider the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and to hold the Third Review Conference in 2018 for a period of two weeks, preceded by a one-week preparatory committee meeting early in 2018.

40. States recommended that the following be considered at the open-ended meeting of governmental experts in 2015:

(a) The implications of recent developments in small arm and light weapon manufacturing, technology and design for effective marking, record-keeping and tracing;

(b) Practical steps to ensure the continued and enhanced effectiveness of national marking, record-keeping and tracing systems in the light of such developments, including ways to support the transfer, uptake and effective utilization of relevant tools and technologies;

(c) The transfer of technology and equipment, as well as capacity-building, in particular training, for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

41. States noted the critical importance of international cooperation and assistance, including capacity-building, to furthering the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, and reaffirmed that this topic should continue to be an integral element of the agenda of all meetings on the Programme of Action.

42. States reaffirmed the importance of the early designation of the chair of future meetings on the Programme of Action.

Regional meetings

43. States noted the important role of regional and subregional organizations in many parts of the world in building capacity and promoting cooperation and assistance to support States, upon request, to implement the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument. They encouraged measures to further enhance the effective role that regional and subregional organizations could play in supporting the implementation of the Programme and the Instrument in accordance with their respective mandates.

44. States encouraged interested States and subregional, regional and international organizations in a position to do so to convene regional meetings in preparation for, or to follow up on, meetings on the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

45. States noted the consideration, where relevant, of aligning the timing of regional meetings regarding illicit small arms and light weapons with the global cycle of meetings so as to ensure, as appropriate, a maximum of synergies between actions taken at the national, regional and global levels.

Engagement of civil society

46. States acknowledged the important role that relevant civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations, play in supporting the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, inter alia in raising awareness, providing assistance and sharing experience and research. They encouraged those organizations to engage, as appropriate, in all aspects of international, regional, subregional and national efforts towards such implementation, without prejudice to national security and in accordance with national laws.

47. States encouraged engagement with industry, as appropriate, to support the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and to ensure that the parties involved remain fully informed of relevant technical developments.

National reporting

48. States reaffirmed the utility of synchronizing voluntary national reporting with regard to the Programme of Action, and national reporting on the International Tracing Instrument, with biennial meetings of States and review conferences as a means to increase the submission rate and improve the utility of reports, as well as to contribute substantively to meeting discussions.

49. States observed the need to increase the utility of reporting, in particular by using national reports to identify implementation trends and challenges and to enhance the matching of assistance needs with available resources.

Support for meeting participation

50. States encouraged those States in a position to do so, with a view to promoting wider and more equitable participation of States in meetings on the Programme of Action, to provide financial assistance, where appropriate, through a voluntary sponsorship fund, to enable States that were otherwise unable to do so to participate in meetings on the Programme of Action, in particular meetings of governmental experts and review conferences.

V. Other issues

51. During the discussion of agenda item 9, some States expressed the view that the following issues were important for the implementation of the Programme of Action:

(a) Direct State control over small arm and light weapon transfers, including brokering;

(b) Unlicensed manufacturing of small arms and light weapons;

(c) Re-export of small arms and light weapons produced under foreign licence;

(d) Synergies between relevant instruments, including linkages between the Programme of Action and the Arms Trade Treaty.

Other delegations expressed a different opinion.